



Happy New Year!

Technology Question of the Month

What are the benefits of using technology in the classroom?

A research project sponsored by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement through the US Department of Education discusses the following effects of technology on classrooms and students...

- **Change in Student and Teacher Roles** - When students use technology as a tool, they are active, rather than passive, participants in their own education. They make choices about how to generate, obtain, manipulate or display information. They are the decision makers. Classrooms often become more student centered with the use of technology.
- **Increase Motivation and Self Esteem** - There's a good deal of research out there discussing the positive correlation between technology and student motivation. A computer is an empowering tool that allows students to have a "voice" in their education. Students can get immediate feedback and feel a sense of accomplishment through the use of technology.
- **Technical Skills** - If students have the opportunity to work with a variety of tools, they will become familiar with how computers "behave." This will increase confidence and give students an advantage in the "real world."
- **Accomplishment of More Complex Tasks** - Research has shown that because of the supports and capabilities of computers, students have been utilizing higher order thinking skills more often.
- **More Collaboration with Peers** - It seems that many educators are concerned about computers taking away students' ability to socialize. Effective technology integration within the classroom has shown an increase in students' willingness to work cooperatively or provide peer tutoring.
- **Increased Use of Outside Resources** - If you can't bring the students on a field trip, take them on a virtual trip! Also, with the use of many telecommunication activities, you can bring authors "into" your classroom, thus expanding what is available to your students.
- **Improved Design Skills/Attention to Audience** - When students have opportunities to produce rich, multimedia projects collaboratively with other students, there's evidence of a greater awareness of audience needs and perspectives.

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Fox Meadow Instructional Technology Wiki



If you haven't checked out the Fox Meadow Instructional Technology wiki/website in a while, you might want to go and see the updates. Click on the picture [above] and you will be directed to the site. New resources are added regularly. So what's the difference between a website and a wiki you ask? A wiki is a type of website that can be edited by more than one user. Therefore, if you'd like to join the Fox Meadow Instructional Technology Wiki and add to it, please do so! Here are some of the updates to the site...

- **Calendar:** There is a calendar that you can view to find out what technology webinars, workshops and conferences are coming up.
- **Phenomenal Websites:** An ongoing list of great sites to check out. Please submit your favorite sites via the link on this page.
- **Newsletters:** All issues of the newsletters will now be uploaded to the site.

- **Forms:** There are forms to fill out if you would like more information about instructional technology.
- **Web2.0 Tools:** Video tutorials and classroom application ideas for a variety of Web2.0 tools added regularly.

Cell Phones

"Texting" Dictionary

We are all well aware of our students' fixation with cell phones in the classroom. Some teachers have embraced these devices as valuable learning tools while others "don't want to go there." The good news is that the choice is yours. If you see the cell phone as a powerful pocket computer and are allowing their use for educational purposes, try this fun trick for defining words...Send a text to Google (466453). In the text message write 'Define' and the word you want a definition for. You will receive a text back with a definition.

Microsoft Quick Tip

Command Keys ~~



Command keys are “keyboard shortcuts” for common actions you do when using applications, such as save, print, cut,

paste, etc. Have you ever been stuck looking for the little “save” icon or do you usually go to ‘file’ and down to ‘save’? Believe it or not, this can take unnecessary time, especially since we want to be sure to save often! Save time, by using command keys. It can take a bit to break old habits, but it’s worth it in the end. This month, try these common command keys...

Action	Command Key
SAVE	Control + s
PRINT	Control + p
UNDO	Control + z
CUT	Control + x
PASTE	Control + v

IT Update

Student E-mail ~~



Students are permitted to create a Google (gmail) account for educational use. If you have your students

create an account, please encourage them to use their first initial and last name, or some other combination utilizing their name, if available. Our students are older and will hopefully be entering the workforce at some point. It’s time they got rid of their silly email

addresses and opened a more “professional” one. When emailing students, staff are **REQUIRED** to **ALWAYS** use their BOCES email address. When emailing students assignments, it is best to send them as a PDF. This will ensure that no unwarranted changes take place on the Microsoft Word document.

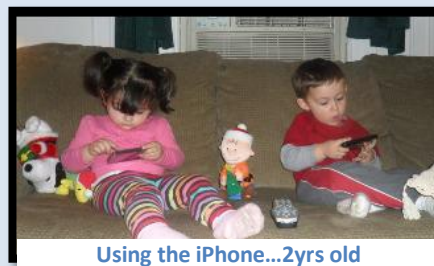
Meeting Notes

WebQuests ~~~~

At December’s Instructional Technology meeting, we discussed Webquests. Webquests are inquiry based online learning activities. These activities are student-centered and can be completed in cooperative learning groups and/or individually. For more information and links to great WebQuest sites, please visit the Fox Meadow Instructional Technology website.

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.”

- John Dewey



Using the iPhone...2yrs old

Fun "Worth the Surf" Sites

Holt Interactive Graphic Organizers

<http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/igo.htm>

A variety of PDF graphic organizers: You can type right into them as they are displayed on the SmartBoard. Then, save to your computer or print them out for students.



Newspaper Clip Generator

<http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

Recount historical events. Make a news story out of an event in a book. The possibilities are endless.

Talking Picture Creator

<http://blabberize.com/>

A quick, easy site that you can use to make any picture talk! Students can use this site to make historical figures or literary characters come to life. Students would get a kick out of recording the steps to a math problem or explaining a scientific term, as well.

Blabberize

Teacher Spotlight

Erik Krantz:



Poll Everywhere

How are you using Poll Everywhere?

Poll everywhere has proven to be a successful tool for both assessment and class participation. Whether the students come into the room and respond to a poll as a “do now,” or answer a multiple choice question as an “exit ticket,” they are engaged as they think it’s really “cool” when I ask them to use their cell phones in class.

Why are you using this piece of technology to achieve academic goals?

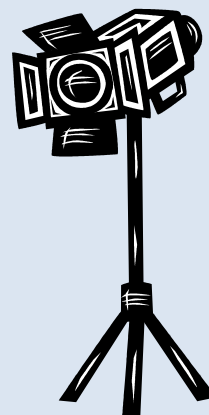
I have chosen to use Poll Everywhere in order to increase student participation and motivation. So far, it has done both. I’m getting responses from students that might not normally participate.

Pros:

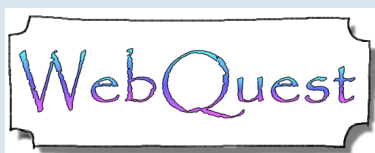
It increases the student engagement and offers a new and unique way for the students to participate in class. The students also seem to feel safe with answering the poll because they can answer the question anonymously.

Cons:

A con would have to be that I have been telling the students to put their cell phones away for almost his whole year and now I ask them to take them out to use them for class. They find this to be quite comical.



Fatima Oliveira:

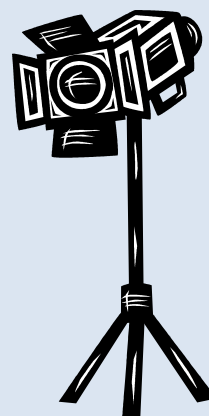


How are you using WebQuests?

I have used WebQuests to help me with my mixed classes of culture and Spanish 1. They have created menu projects and I have used them to research cultural events like “Navidad” or Christmas. I hope to use the Day of the Dead WebQuest next year. Students are given a list of questions and the websites to find them.

What effect on student achievement do you see?

They find it difficult to find the exact answers, but it keeps them motivated. I tell them that I will grade the final product and I give them a deadline. They still ask for assistance, but are able



to find many answers on their own. I also let them work with a partner if I do not have enough computers or feel that it would motivate them more to use teamwork. The menu project allowed a lot of creativity and students liked to imagine themselves owning a restaurant and creating their own menu. Some students used Microsoft PowerPoint, Word or Publisher to create their final menu. When making a menu in another language I always believe that there is a higher-level of thinking decoding from one language to another. It reinforces the connections within their own language and across languages.

Pros:

The pros of WebQuests are that students are able to work more independently and use their researching skills. It is an opportunity to learn more about technology and how to use it or apply it to the real world. Furthermore, they find pride in presenting a project that they worked on.

Cons:

A con is that one must always be vigilant of how the students are using the computer and make sure that there are enough resources to work independently.



Instructional Technology Team

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